

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23635

This legislation will increase the amount and number of loan repayment awards made to Idaho physicians through the Rural Physician Incentive Program, known as RPIP. Physician loan repayment programs are great recruitment tools to bring physicians to rural and under-served communities. Idaho's RPIP is currently funded solely through medical student fees paid by individuals who attend the WWAMI or University of Utah medical education programs. The changes proposed by this legislation will double the amount of awards over a four-year period from \$50,000 (\$12,500/year) up to \$100,000 (\$25,000/year) and increase the number of awards by allowing total awards to exceed the amount of fees generated in a given year, while directing the RPIP board to retain an appropriate fund balance. These changes will make Idaho more competitive with surrounding states and boost our physician workforce. Increasing the amount and number of RPIP awards will help retain Idaho-trained physicians and recruit new physicians to the state.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact, since no state funds are allocated to RPIP.

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